



PLAY

Edi

JG' ENT

OSE IN CO



JAGANATHAN'S

ONE ACT PLAYS

PORIKAI FAN YAN
SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT
SUBHAS CHANDRA BO
COLL





Jaganathan's

ONE ACT PLAYS

PORKKAI PANDIYAN

SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN COLLEGE



POET INDIA PUBLICATIONS

20, Alangudi Road, PUDUKKOTTAI-622001.
Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

Price: P

First Edition—November, 1981.

No one may either translate or reproduce without the written permission from the Publisher, Poet India Publications except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in a magazine or newspaper.

CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. <i>Porkkai Pandiyan</i> | 1 |
| 2. <i>Solomon's Judgment</i> | 25 |
| 3. <i>Subhas Chandra Bose in College</i> | 39 |

- P R E F A C E -

Drama, as we have known, seen, read, if to be concise in explanation, intrinsical and agreeable in sense, is exactly the life of one or host of many played by another set of persons. Usually lives of celebrated members, when dramatized by writers moved by intuition and fine frenzy, have become the works to be popularly read and played. Moreover, Drama is a complete art in itself, in so far it has portrayed the lives of persons endowed with varied faculties, powers and fine instincts. Therefore a dramatist, particularly a dramatist of Shakespearean order, is the fit person to give a wholesome and agreeable view of drama. Hence this introductory piece.

With no specific reference to a life or a dramatist or a work par excellence, it is sure, there is the likelihood to render this preface most detestable. Through this preface, it is intended, readers and fans of drama might well have a glimpse, at least a faint glimpse of the much praised writers of this world and their celebrated works, each work a magnum opus in itself.

One lives one's life term facing trivial, normal, and grand, occasions and the individual's response to such occasions in mute suited to and in conformity with, his, her temparement becomes dramatized. viz Drama is written as the persons would have been on those occasions. Hazlitt also is in conformity with this view. The life of a person dramatized is actual and the individual meets rather with unforeseen events mainly and a drama is against this. The life of the individual to be played becomes known. The player becomes versed with his habits, moods, costumes, talks and plays his life as he would have behaved in

those days confining purely to the stage. Dramatist, for the most part, gives us the active moods which have the power to inspire him to write. He is moved much whe there are moving events and those events become dramatic scenes.

Everyone may evince interest in a knowledge of drama since a dramatist, to wit, Shakespeare has likened the world to a stage and the men and women to players on the stage. Beyond dispute it is a dramatist's outlook on life and as such stage and actors are the easily available comparisons to him. We know drama to be an art with inherent latent to interest the masses since the masses themselves might have been related to the occasions they see on stage. By and large it has become a first class instrument to make the masses "love the lovable and detest the detestable" (Dr. Radhakrishnan)

We have in us the instincts to love one and despise another i e., we display quire different passions. A dramatist, a born poet, takes up a history that fires his mood bursting into a flow of dialogue. When we see the history played on the stage or read we go hand in hand with the scene as if the same is round us actually. But definitely such an act is on the stage. In actual fact, it happened in one's life. And there is the likelihood or guarantee that such and such an act may turn up in the individual's life viz., the spectator.

All over the world, as we may eye to eye see, the two grand epics of India viz., Ramayana and Mahabharatha are known, read and appreciated and the characters of those epics are worshipped. Ramayana in original is the wonderful epic since it is the first literary piece that ever the world has seen.

Readers of it like to read for tears, some take solace in it and some others rejoice. Poet Kambar is Valkimi of South. Save the modifications in his Tamil writing through which he has displayed his singular merit of giving vent to human emotions in rhymed verse with no loss of naturalness and force, it resembles the translation of the original. Apart from this Kambar himself has acknowledged the superb literary merit, the melody of verse, rhythm, rhapsody etc of Sage Valkimi's writings. Upon the whole each work is a pearl, a crest jewel, incomparable in respect of linguistic standard, grace, charm, force, sentiments and supreme principles. Ramayana is such an epic that moves the readers to tears time and again on account of the plight of the characters of the epic. The first such scene is the banishment of Rama, the most beloved prince of his land, to forest, for no fault of his own. In its train we see the heart rending cry of citizens on his departure to forest, the speechless tears of a tumbling father, the unswerving attachment of elderly and aged Brahmins to Rama, their appeal to horses not to gallop further with their Rama to forest, Rama's condescending Character, all in toto, go to hold us in tears. It is to be here acknowledged that Kambar alone as a poet has given vent to the burning emotions in fully rhymed verse with no loss either to the rhythm required or the intensity that was actual as the character would have spoken on the occasions. There are hundreds of such verses that display the emotions of anxiety, anger, attachment, affection and admonition. Only one or two verses are referred to in this preface for want of space since it is desired to give a panoramic view of all popular writers of this world.

"Oh galloping horses! hold! on!! hold on!!
 Sensitive ears, we learn, you own!
 Go not on with our beloved
 See the tears we shed
 Harken the words we uttered!

See how moving are the emotions of citizens of Oudh on the departure of the prince Rama to forest who proceeded to protect the plighted word of his father. Likewise we see provoked, irritated Bhraratha by the conduct of his own mother against his beloved brother Rama

"You are not my mother; Nor Dasaratha's pair
 A ghost, a demoness that were elsewhere
 Ha! how pitiless and wicked you've been to him
 For no guilt of Rama you have banished him
 Vanish from my view, thou wicked woman
 For I tremble to behold your person
 I won't be with you anymore
 Nor will I fulfill your cruel desire"

Every life is a drama. Unlike a drama, an epic like Ramayana includes Drama as we popularly understand apart from the usual descriptive trait, the first novel mode of creativity. If we exclude such descriptive songs which may be in poet's own telling we may see a drama only in the epic. Where could a drama much more moving than Ramayana in the world be seen? There are continuous scenes for us to behold, provoked and pitiable characters. We are moved and moved and become one with the characters or citizens that were then in Oudh. This is the supreme trait that has been displayed which had been inherent in our ancient literateur, the father of literary form.

Definitely Sage Valmiki is the first man to write a creative work. Every writer, in general, and in particular.

writer endowed with inspiration and intuition, definitely, is likely to acknowledge this. We shall mention no superior writer other than Kambar himself in respect of his esteem for Sage Valkimi. 'He made celestials hearken his fine songs with devoted ears'.

Now we shall have a glimpse of one of the foremost Tamil epics in original. It is the adroit creative production of Ilango's Silapathikaram. Of all the literary productions in Tamil it is distinct and popularly acknowledged to be abounding in natural, musical and dramatic elements. In this work the chief stuff of the theme is proportionately matched by the inherent merits of the language and throughout this work the elements above mentioned manifest in equal and rather transcendental force, charm and grace. There are many striking dramatic scenes and dialogues throughout this play and one of the terrific scenes equally fraught with the power to invoke remorse and pathos in us is now given:

'Is any woman hither? Is any woman hither?
Who do with her husband's faults bear
Are men of virtue hither? Are men of virtue hither?
Who do the children born of them tend to foster.

Now we shall refer briefly to the works of Shakespeare. In any note on drama, awfully particularly English drama, a mention, say, a special mention ought to be made about Sakespeare, the honey tongued one, who stands unparagoned in the field of dramatic literature. He becomes fit to be compared with any other poet in any other language in as much as he has used the linguistic vehicle to portray the varied human instincts in gracious and mellifluous diction. Characters capable of capturing the hearts of audience as well as readers are many and almost every character of Shakespeare becomes worthy of

mention in as much as he or she, it seems, had to be the tools in the hands of adroit workmanship of Shakespeare. Even a fool in Shakespeare's play is not at all a fool in the intrinsic sense and value attached to the term. He is actually the wise and he has become a fool simply because he happened to flout the folly of the seemingly wise folks who dominated the scene. It seems rather that Shakespeare might have inclined to drive home the point that men of wisdom who happen to jest at the wrongful activities of man might well be regarded as fools themselves. This is not the happening only in the past. It seems to turn up even now also.

Of the total 37 plays of Shakespeare, four have become the most popular works i. e. tragedies, also known popularly as four most popular tragedies. Of the four, we shall choose Macbeth to survey, in short, the workmanship of Shakespeare. First of all, it is a play where a man of avarice and a tool in the hands of foul fiends, is the hero. He moves simply because he is instigated in the name of prophesy. Throughout this short drama we meet murders, one murder outtopping the other murder in the manner of execution, instilling in us constant thrill and awe. Even the very first scene is enough to portend what might be the future events in the play to be seen. Very short scene. But very thrilling to see on the stage, very menacing, breath taking, making the hair stand on end to hear the dark intents of the weird sisters. It is poetry, fully rhymed, beautifully neat, and the scene abounds in rhythm unmatched by the stuff of the theme to be treated. In a thorough survey of his character in the light of the conduct and passion of other heroes in other plays, he singles himself out in so far as he is goaded to action first, by weird sisters, and next by his own spouse. crown and sceptre

have caught hold of many hearts and especially in the past when valiant ones were the cause of existence of any empire, a strong will with an inherent bias towards attainment of crown was manifest in such heroes. Macbeth had already such element, in him and only this corroding element got fire when the weird sisters bade him welcome with titles causing anxiety as well as astonishment. When the first of three titles was bestowed upon him instantaneously, he fell prey to the prophesy and began to work only to realise the titles through whatsoever means and manner they may be. This is the beginning catastrophe to himself and other admirers and colleagues round him.

The Key-note of his character is his susceptibility to temptation and the real turning point or dividing line in his life is his meeting with weird sisters, a meeting that he never dreamt or thought easy and possible. The weird sisters greeted him with three titles and one of the titles. i. e. the first title was allowed by the King himself and naturally he falls upon the attainment of other titles and towards the attainment of his goal is his behaviour and the content of this play. Othello was susceptible to suspicion coupled with his inferior complex born of his espousal of snow white Desdemona. In Macbeth the valour coupled with instigated ambition, the unqualified passion, is at work. Lear fell prey to show of words of love. Much praised Antonio was a tool in the hands of Cleopatra. Hamlet differs from these defective characters of Shakespeare.

In this volume, three one Act plays have been included. Of the three one Act plays, first one Act play is entitled Porkkai Pandiyan since the authorised name of the celebrated Tamil Monarch is not known. This monarch won this name because of his severance of his hand by himself

in accordance with the judgment of the citizens. The explanation of the event, is this one Act play. It was ancient Tamil Monarchs' infallible and unflinching belief and practice that even as Thiru Valluvar Put it "Sceptre of the king is the stronghold of Vedas of Brahmins and righteousness". The king's behaviour in accordance with such proclamation is in this play dramatized.

Likewise is the second one Act play. It describes the struggle of two women, and Solomon's display of incisive wisdom to discern the truth. His seemingly blunt judgment in its train helps identify the real mother. From children to old folks are well aware of this story. This play differs in respect of the presentment of emotions of the real mother and the dissembler.

The third one Act play herein is portraying the college days, in particular and boyish days, in general of our Netaji. This play is intended to sound like a prologue to the Freedom movement. Freedom movement itself will be an epic. It is to be the third grand epic of India in chronological order. Herein you see the intense patriotism of Subhas, his boyish days devotion to find out a venerable Sadhu, his college days' conduct and his firm resolve in boyhood itself to liberate Mother India.

M. Jaganathan.



PORKKAI PANDIYAN

Act-I Scene—I.

Enter king and queen

King:

Without justice won't live any kingdom
Ancestors were very keen about it
Hardly they slept or other joys took over them
When they a little erred justice sentenced them
I must jealously protect the land
Virtue here lives for justice I look after
Only doers of right thrive, righteous king is like God
Next to God on earth is the emperor
For like Him He doth all provide
How could I here enjoy night
No thieves are here, none doth gamble
No woman is dishonest in this empire
But if I think it would defend itself
Won't it be a suicidal step by me
People believe in my protective steps
Upto the trust of all ever I must be
When it fails I too will fall
Unjust ones are always ruined
There won't be copious rain in time
Corns will not thrive, business would languish;
Prostitution can dance at any time
Only in strict vigilance of the ruler
Can afford to be safe all the citizens
How will priests perform prayers and sacrifices?
When Gods are forgotten where will be peace?
Why this night I miss to supervise the land in
Needs and supply are always demanding timely [disguise?
[help
Justice must never suffer in this empire
So long as I will be this land's ruler

Queen :

Rajas must always look after justice
 It is on par with spouse of any man
 Only in strict vigilance lies its safety
 At any time tests may befall
 But the Raja must not be a victim
 Ever you are devoted to the maintenance of justice
 As ever, Lord! you must look after the empire!!
 Although people don't complain any wrong
 Through slight negligence wrongs may throng
 Constant care for the defence of laws
 Keeps the wickedness in justice's Jaws
 Eagerly I will be awaiting to know from you
 Tell me how far people fare here
 Every day it must be known Lord!

King :

Virtuous spouse! I am happy very much to hear
 [from you]
 This defensive argument to do my duty
 Justice won't certainly suffer here
 When you in time justly interpose

Queen :

Lord! duty of spouse this is.
 Does she deserve the praise for this?
 You are the celebrated doer of Justice
 Your spouse I am. That is my pride

King :

Well! well! you excel me. Adieus! adieus!!
 Await without slumber till I return

Queen :

When you are away from me Oh Lord!
 The eyes are against slumber

Assuredly I could say Lord
 Without You the eyes won't acknowledge slumber
 Presence your is the price to buy snore
 So Lord return when your task ends
 And make these eyes sleep calmly

Raja:

Well well. Tell your eyes the tidings you heard
 [Exit.]

Act-I. Scene—II.

Enter merchant, and his wife

Woman:

Separation of one's husband is severe blow to a
 [spouse]
 No women will be happy in her husband's
 [absence]

Virtuous women languish every moment
 Men hath the hearts to part with their wives
 But women won't endure the thought of your
 [departure]

How actually I could pass the days?
 You could embrace, console me in convincing
 [language]

That could the separation more afflict
 I could think over my Lord's behaviour
 Pleasant was every moment when he was
 But now he is away from me. I must weep
 Lord help lessly I could be here
 Lonely how I could be here. Lord

Man:

Dear my spouse. In this empire this fear is
 [unwarranted]
 Say that you could not tolerate my absence

Sensical and just argument it is
 But never dare to say that you fear
 Your husband's presence is pleasant to you
 In my absence who will intrude in your happiness?
 This Raja's love of justice you don't know
 None hath grievances to enlist and petition to

[His highness

Justice is like His majesty's certain presence
 You shall have no doubt about this

Dear one only in pursuit of fortune I part with

[you

Happily we have to be hear. Gifts we could make
 Guests we could comfort Friends will be pleased
 Without fortune how could our needs be fulfilled?
 Are you not aware of this perennial fact?

A wise merchant's daughter shall not ignore this

Your mother could have ended her Lord's

[absence

Without trip to foreign countries wide fortune

No merchants could accumulate to be happy

King is the protector of all. He is like God

Like God our rights His majesty defends

Although Rajas in every empire doth this

The Lord of this empire outtop all

Only in trust of His Majesty's just approach

Fearlessly I think to trade abroad

Pearls, diamonds, precious stones to adorn you

I like to bring to your presence

Fear not thy solitude my pleasant, blest spouse!

Woman :

To take leave of me in pursuit of fortune thus you

[speak

No complaints are lodged with his glorious

[highness

This could also be true. Lord I acknowledge

As feared if anything grossly befalls
 Taking advantage of my solitariness
 Lord how could I endure. Tell.
 Virtuous women have suffered villain's treason
 Rajas could do justic. But how like God
 Even God everywhere could be duped
 Lord I fear. Helplessly I say hear!

Man:

Dear my spouse. Again assuredly I like to say this
 Vainly dangers through conceived fear you warrant
 Both God and the King you defame
 May the Lord be merciful to you
 Like a father may He look after you
 I pray to Him. His replica is the emperor
 I believe in both of them spouse!

Woman:

You are determined to take leave of me at any rate
 Your trust in God and the king you speak
 Woman's request goes like cry in wilderness

Man:

Ha! How wrangling you are now
 Without your heartiest consent and adieus
 My spouse! I won't take leave of you
 But hear from me this fact.
 Were women like you the wives of the warriors?
 This empire including you and me and all women
 Easily will become the captives of other men
 Fortunately they are bold to part with them
 They bid hapriest adieus and bless them
 With their victorious garland to wear
 Such woman could be no soldier's wife
 If a woman like you marries the soldier
 This empire's presence could not be thought

King standing hard-by the front
door on the street

Raja :

Vainly this woman fears; His enterprise she ruins
How could I interpose? In my defence he trusts
Women won't ordinarily be happy without their [lords
But without performance of duty how both could [be
My spouse too desires my presence with her
But never forbade in doing my duty.
Such women are threats to society
Neither in God nor in the emperor she believes
How fearful she is! Such a woman now only [I know

Woman :

Lord! excuse me if I have exceedingly remarked [anything
In agony of the thought of your separation
I have prattled. Forgive lord! truthful you are!!
Virtuous I am Virtue defends. Yet fear rules
In you and your words firstly I trust
The God of the woman is her husband
Only you I worship. Excuse me lord
Take leave of me happily. Think to return soon
That only now I like to say to you lord

Man :

Dear spouse. This courage keeps my man
The world lives through woman's heartiest [Co-operation
Respect to either's liberty is like the scent
Life will blossom and spread the scent
With a thought on you I could be abroad
Likewise you have to be always.
Honest women need not be taught

For their hearts are the witness
 Now I am Joyous and deliberate dear one
 Count in days and weeks and not in months
 When winter begins to blow I will be here
 To blow like the spring awaited
 Dear one! Dear one! This face, these shoulders
 These eyes are powerful invaders to take me

Dear one! How can I afford to be pleasant without ^{[captive}
 [you long?

Quickly I would seek ways to return to you
 My love! love for you know. must I in words say?

Woman :

Very deceptive you are. Lord, without me you
 [have to travel

Fancies henceforth will become our friends
 I bid you the hearty adieus
 Make search for fortune for your spouse awhile
 She also could please although unlike me.

Act-I. Scene-III.

Court, members of court enter

First man :

Where Rajas are just there justice is
 Only when he is indolent wrong people wrong
 Great ones set the p ecedence which all like to ^{[emulate}
 So far our Raja is concerned justice His Majesty ^{[does}

Second man :

None till now have lodged complaint with this Lord
 Is it not illustrative of his envious defence of virtue?
 Jealous protection of chastity by women

Justice His Majesty are ever desired
Only when kings honour laws justice lives

Third man :

People have well known one perennial faet

First man :

Doers of wrong could not escape sentence

Second man :

Can power or fortune afford to corrupt His
[Highness

Fourth man :

No one is envious here of other's status
So no contrivance in the court hatches plot

First man :

Contentment is everyone's God here
Greedy merchants are not in this empire
Lusty women don't live in this empire

Third man :

Why they are so in this Raj greatly?

First man :

Only His Majesty's defensive steps are the causes
Poets sing sweet songs every day
Virtue is here firstly sung everyday
Valour and elegance come only next
Only protective force is virtue
Only when we disregard virtue we fall

Fourth man :

Long live the king, His exalted Highness

All:

Long live the Lord His happiest Majesty!
(Enters the king)

King:

Thank you all honest courtiers. Thank you
All are you intent on unfailing justice
You are all the sharp weapons to defend laws.
Whilst you are all why shall I care for complaints
Promote people's happiness; provide all they require
When needs are supplied greed hath no place
Kings must not sleep. Bravery must embody him
Knowledge shall be his shield to conquer

First man:

Lord you suffer from no demerits
In all arts you are versed
People's faith in Thee is like faith in God
Like God you take care of them
Even God could sleep whilst you rule

King:

Here defamation erops dear ministers
When we a little do defame
Soon we would plunge into erroneous acts
I am afraid ministers; may not He make me err!

First man:

However great a man may be. I acknowledge
He deserves not to be paragoned with Him
Even if His majesty is bound to err
His Highness never thinks to escape punishment

King:

Error is error. Punishment could rectify it.

Second man :

Oh! Lord! Protect the emperor from erring even
[unknowingly]

First man :

Ever His Highness is ready to be just
In case His Majesty wrongs or any of His
[Majesty's subjects]
Worthy punishment is wont on the law breaker

King :

Happiest thoughts I hear. May justice be ever
[enthroned]

All :

Long live His glorious Highness and Her Majesty
Long live the empire and His Majesty's honest
[subjects]

King :

Long live the the court and wise ministers
Long live the honesty and justice they wish
[Exit]

Act-I. Scene—IV.

Enter king and queen

King :

Dear one! taxing nights pass without penalty
Cent per cent I am upto the faith of the trader
Silence is still the ruler of the house
There is no talk nor play in the house
The afraid housewife is vigilant
Only at length she permitted him
The wise merchant is abroad in amassing fortune
Trust of the merchant is till now not slaughtered

Every night I keep particular watch of the house
The ruling silence there satisfied me

Queen :

Only honest women are in this empire
Fear in them hath no place certainly
Only her unwillingness to part with him
Might have thus made her wrangle with him
Only her consent hath sent him aborad

King :

Virtuous and lovely women need extra care
Villains are at liberty to dishonour them at any [time
A woman of shatriya clan will always be valiant
She belongs to wealthy Vaisya caste
So she seems to have feared his separation

Queen :

Would you Oh Lord like to exalt me

King :

Always I won't like to extol your features
You are aware of this dear my queen.

Queen :

Could not I take this itself for complimentary one?

King :

Queen's contentment is King's food
I won't suffer from mental hunger

Queen :

Great women hath ever been praised
Greatly they are remembered till this day

She is like the object of refuge
 You ought to take exclusive care of her
 Kings must not objects of refuge undo
 Only in need of defence and out of fear
 They seek after reliable refuge
 So she is entitled to your watchful eyes

King :

In general it is king's duty to discharge
 Wife's will helps to fulfil it
 I must impart to you that is urgently called for
 Greatly I am satisfied to hear this from you
 Consistent view between the pairs is among few
 Blessed pairs we are dear my spouse.

Queen :

Lord please be on jealous guard of the refugee

King :

Till her husband's return it is my exclusive work
 Meticulously I have taken upon me this task
 Reliance on the emperor must never falter

Queen :

In this empire it is beyond approach
 So oh Lord take to this protective task

King :

Adieus! my love quite pleasant adieus!!

Queen :

Slumberless eyes would be looking for thee
 Without you near me these eyes won't sleep
 Adieus, quite pleasant adieus.

[Exit

Act-I. Scene—V.

Enter the merchant and his wife

Woman :

Lord! happy again I am to see thee thus
 Let many days pass before you think of trade
 No trouble befell in your absence
 All was well as you deemed and told
 Yet womanish heart something divined ill
 Every second, every minute, and every hour
 In dreadful silence I spent these days
 Neighbours, relation never chose I
 You know the cause dear my Lord!
 For such acts may result in petty offence
 Virtuous woman must look never at other man
 Public contact may give way to spoilation
 To avoid it I desired to be lonely

Man :

Dear one! your loneliness comes to an end
 For I have come here and will be with you
 Only steady mind is enough to be safe
 Learnt ones speak of this in unison
 Weak ones must others presence dread
 Pure mind could never be polluted
 Are not you aware of such woman's story
 I have heard many stories of modest women
 They dared anything in defence of their husbands
 Solitude and company were alike to them
 Their minds they have kept free
 It is enough for me to know from you
 If you were safe all these days
 My trust's failure never I saw

Woman :

Lord! run the course of trade tour
 That you earnestly undertook all these days
 We shall spend the night in gayest talks
 Without any speech in the house it was calm
 When man is in the house there must be
[resemblance

Lord how fared you in your trade?
 How the foreign counterparts treated you
 How they are for eyes to see. How they behave?
 Describe in traveller's language
 Although poet's speech would be appealing
 Husband's speech to hear is like the kind verse
 If you speak since those days I will smile
 Looking up at your face when you talk
 I will observe your dramatic posture
 Lord without you how could I see plays
 Here I was in calm plus fear minus hope mood
 But you were on business trip abroad
 Only when leisurely you could have thought of me
 When will my Lord think of me? Will not he
[think of my fear
 Oh at length I bade farewell and wished him
[success

When lonely, leisurely he would be
 He will be fondly thinking of me
 Lord! is your wife's inkling correct?
 You were abroad. You alone could truly tell
 Were you not happy with thoughts over me
 Didst you really fear my solitude?
 Lord! please speak to me in detail
 To hear from you in your words I pray, Prithee
[speak

Man :

Aright you guess; aright you speak
 I acknowledge and admire your lore

You could have fearlessly spent the solitude
 My presence could have increased my mirth
 As you said when lonely I was
 Thoughts over you did pass; happily pass
 I thought over your fear, hesitation to part with
 [me]

Woman's nature it is. So I thought not
 As a man could I think of it at least
 But business has to be looked after
 Without work and food who could thrive
 Love and joy could be shared in health
 I sold the precious pearls I had with me
 Pearls of this empire picked up hot cake sales
 Splendour of pearls enchanted all eyes
 Spice and other edibles were there
 Woman thronged to buy the pearls
 Woman's consent was every man's demand
 Only when they nodded they bought even pearls
 Woman in luxurious splendour I saw
 But none stirred any vile passion
 Like a rishi of true knowledge
 Only on trade I concentrated the mind
 Fortune now I have amassed; for you jewels
 [brought]

You could wear. See these garments
 Woman there wore these attire in all mirth
 You could enjoy a fancy wearing of these garments
 I would like to see you in those garments
 We could meet her, embrace her console her
 This thought alone got me to business
 Now I have turned, dear one! fear not solitude
 Pleasant nights and days will pass henceforth

Woman:

Courageous thought you have borne regarding me
 Like a rishi established in yoga you were

The mood I possessed now I could recollect
 Deadly silence possessed this house
 Your faith in protection by the emperor proved
 (Enters the Raja) [true

King standing hard-by the front
 door on the street

King:

Why lantern burns in midnight in this house?
 This house till now demanded my special watch
 Is today a challenge to my vigilant watch?
 New voice I hear in this house
 Is not this woman honest? Is he the same mer-
 [chant?

Who with faith in me just few months back
 Left for foreign lands on business tour?
 Alas; How could I discern the truth regarding this?
 I am put on the horns of dilemma
 Justice I have established at all costs
 Could not it become farcical?
 If he be the man of this house
 He would question if I knock the doors
 Only in cases he is dishonest he would retreat
 All right! I have known the way; I must test
 (The king knocks)

Man:

Tell! who knocks the doors of this house at midnight?
 In this empire could this also happen?
 Who he is thus bold and villainous to intrude?

King:

To know truth I assayed. I won and equally lost
 This woman and man are quite honest
 But now she could be doubted I could not answer
 Doors of all houses I could knock and delete suspi-
 I shall firstly do it. [cion

Man :

Won't you too know him. Now who could know
 [the doors of this house
 Answer aright. Oh! thief I won't leave you to
 [your way
 Justice is safe in this house and the kingdom
 Come! come my spouse. My peace is spoiled
 Were such knockings before this night?
 You said you were in deadly silence
 Now your view is put to question
 I must know; go with me; we must know this
 [Doors of all houses he knocks and reaches
 the palace]
 (All members of every house open doors and
 come out)

First man :

Unheard atrocity happened today in this city.
 No nights were thus troubled like this previously
 Is the king asleep? Is a thief too bold to raid?
 The Raja's concern to justice we all know
 Yet how such a thief entered this city?
 His hand deserves to be cut
 Amputation of his arm is the suitable punishment
 Tomorrow we must complain about this to His
 [Highness]

Merchant :

Were previous nights indeed happy and calm?
 I was on business tour and returned lately in the
 [night
 I was talking to my spouse about all tours
 Suddenly I heard knocking and rose on feet
 I began even to distrust my wife
 All right. Tomorrow the cause we must know
 In our presence His Highness must punish the
 [thief]

Amputataion of the arm is the fit sentence
 All must voice one kind of punishment
 "Cut off his arm when you catch hold of him"

Second man :

New fear is instilled in all hearts
 These weeds must not flourish
 His Highness must weed out such thieves
 We shall all in once voice complain this to him
 Fear alone could prosper in this empire
 If such acts go unheeded justice won't be here

Third man :

Happiest slumber, calm, night, fearlessness
 Everything in a minute has been obliterated
 How bold a thief he must have been!
 Daggers lurk in the heart regarding him
 Could he actually escape the empire and
 [punishment?
 Still I retain faith in His Highness's power
 He could catch hold of the thief and punish
 Let it dawn first. Till that moment we shall
 [be awake
 How could we slumber and snore henceforth?
 When we have known such a thief's presence.
 We shall first seek ways to punish such a culprit
 Then we shall rest satisfied as usual

Merchant :

Dear one. We shall be awake till dawn
 When I returned a villainous act I witnessed
 How this could be enquired? Such a thief deserves
 [sentence
 Go with me my spouse. Doors of all houses are
 [knocked
 The cause must be known. Go with me happily
 I won't suspect you. Go with me.

Act-I. Scene—VI.

Enter People, king

Place: Court

People:

Oh your glorious highness, Oh your gracious
 Defender of this tranquil and prosperous empire [Majesty
 To you today to petition we crowded

King:

Justice ever I have done. Fear not! doubt not!!
 Calmly petition the case. I will hear.
 Due redress of your grievances you will get
 By the sceptre I hold I swear! dear citizens!!
 By the faith you have in me I swear.
 One among you shall present the case
 Although all of you might have been offended
 Whatever be the nature of the offence
 Whosoever he may be the offender
 He shall like the cobra on hearing thunder shiver
 Due sentence he will enjoy People! I assure!
 The wrongs will be obliterated. I assure!

First man:

Yes. All of us must not talk. What could be heard?
 Oh your exalted Majesty excuse!
 The nature of trouble inflicted on us
 Thus make us loose the usual poise
 The peace of the night we lost
 One thief worked like the dreadful ghost
 So we all have thus assembled and talked
 Here is the merchant He will tell.

Merchant:

Oh your gracious Highness! We salute to you
 Trusting your godly protection of all!!

Just few months back I left on merchandise tour
 My wife feared. I assured of your protective hands
 "In this empire you must eschew fear
 No thieves here others right offend
 Everyone could be just and not wrong
 So fear not solitude. Justice will look after you"
 With this hope and with these words to her
 I left for foreign lands to seek fortune
 In the meanwhile nights were silent
 My wife was calm. No fear cropped
 But just on yesterday night this happened
 Yesterday night only I returned from abroad
 I was holding talks with my wife
 The oil was spent by our long talks
 Mutually we were inquiring into our lonely state
 Whilst thus we were enjoying the time
 Unexpectedly I heard a knocking on the front gate
 Quickly I exhorted him and asked my wife
 She joined me and both of us shouted
 Again he knocked. I was alarmed Oh Your
 [gracious Majesty
 This only happened. Your Highness know to do
 [justice
 This crime deserves severe sentence. Punish the
 [culprit
 Should be he so bold to knock the doors of other
 [houses?
 Others will tell the case as actually happened.

Second man :

He was awake. His house wore calm posture.
 His wife enjoyed loneliness. Never to other
 [house she went
 My wife told. Other women affirm.
 A little her modesty he doubts
 Who might have been the bold intruder?

Thus to touch the doors of other houses
 Affirm the honesty of the lovely woman
 By punishing the wicked man of yester-night.
 We were all asleep. Night's calm only we knew
 Till this age a mutinous night I never witnessed
 The street as a whole awoke. This you must know
 All of us stood as if struck by demons! ghosts!!
 Oh your glorious Majesty! Unheard crime occurred
 People are in doubtful of peaceful nights in future
 As if struck by thunder we arose
 That bold intruder deserves severe chastisement

King :

Nature of guilt I knew. Peace you lost
 Tranquil nights must rotate in life
 In this empire none should thus others threaten
 You've been offended. Oh dear citizens!
 You must punish the intruder. Nature of crime
 [you know

Inflict the punishment you wish on him
 I will accordingly punish the culprit
 Your contentment in this case is my wish
 Tell. How far the thief deserves to be troubled
 Without delay I will offend the wrong-doer
 You shall see justice done in your presence
 I won't retreat to achieve justice. I assure!

Citizens:

Cut the hand off him which knocked thus boldly
 This sentence will satisfy the people
 It will threaten the doers of wrong in future

King:

See him punished today. The justice desired see

First man :

We see not the wrong-doer. Is he in the court
[itself?

Hath the Raja caught hold of him already
From the sword belt He draws the sword
Whose hand he will cut? Why his hand he stretches?
Oh Raja! Oh your glorious Majesty. Why this act?
Why your hand you have cut off from you?
Didst your Highness didst this act?
Reason with us. We are sinful. We have sinned
Doers of wickedness we are. All of us prostrate
Oh Your gracious Majesty. Your exalted Majesty
Didst thou knock the doors of all houses?
Oh kind protector! Like God you defended
God won't forgive us. You are the Lord on earth
Why this dreadful punishment? Oh physicians!
Heal the bleeding hand of His Highness.

[He suffers

More than the trouble of us you enjoy
In anger and indiscretion we complained
Oh Your glorious Highness. Excuse.

King :

Dear citizens. This won't pain me
Today I am more than ever before satisfied.
Duty I did yester-night! Duty I did now
I will present the case as I know
The merchant and his wife were conversing
When one night I was on night watch of the land
Dialogue of them I heard. Merchant's faith in me;
Fear of his wife; everything I heard.
Since then I took special care of the house
Till yester-night I observed grave silence
But when yester-night I saw the lamp lit
Actually my watch I suspected. Near the doors

[I came

Heard again their dialogue. Happiness I glanced
 In the distant dimness of the light and distance
 I saw only dimly the man and felt changed tone
 I suspected Her Modesty. Merchant's faith

[I remembered

To get it affirmed whether he be the man of the [house

I knocked the doors of the house. I shewed
 Only actual man of the house will preserve courage
 To question the intruder. Wrong ones would

[take to heel

Although assured I stood I trembled and feared
 Will not he suspect her honesty. This I thought
 Immediately I began knocking all doors on the [line

To create the notion of a general thief and [intruder

Having thus knocked all doors along the street
 Quickly I stepped into the house and remained [silent

You all have arisen and held talks aloud
 Now you presented the guilt, described the nature
 Due punishment you inflicted. Doer was offended
 Not the Glorious Highness of this empire
 Your weakness in apologies to me I understand
 Give up the wrong attachment and arise to punish [the wrong

Then only we could sing here virtuous song
 Oh merchant! your wife's honesty you shall [not doubt

Like a father, brother I was to her
 Go in contentment with thy wife

Merchant :

Oh Your exalted Highness! Here will justice live
 Only justice preserves peace every where
 None will dare to do the gross wrong
 Unconcerned of the occupation all will be [sentenced
 For justice could not anything consider
 When it sees the doers of trivial and tyrannous [wrong

Citizens :

Hail! hail! Your glorious Highness!
 Happiest kingdom is in the world only
 Only where this virtuous Raja rules.
 Hail! hail! Your glorious Highness!
 Hail! hail! Your kind Majesty!
 Hail! hail! this fertile empire
 Victory to you! Victory to you! We wish it.
 [We pray for it



2 SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT

Act-I. Scene—I.
Enter two women

First Woman:

My child, the babe that I left to thy care
Bring to my eyes, prithee, fetch him here
laughs he or weeps he or sick or healthy
cries he in hunger or quiet with thee?
Prithee bring my babe. I shall see him
And till satiate I shall kiss him
My good companion Where he is?
Is he in the cradle now asleep?
Ye speak not. Weigh ye mother's love?
I cannot help grappling the mood
Only I need see him and kiss him every second
His father is away and thinks of him
I shall kiss him. embrace him and speak to him
My baby will not speak But he will cry
He will whimper if thou hast in hands
When my milk he drank he did thus
Gave ye milk of your own or at least the cow's
He will drink. He is my child.
With his fond little arms hands legs
often shaking, awhile laughing at me
He will strike me; hold me by hair and gown
I will let him strike and he will strike
But I desire it. He will strike, the babe
Where he is? you still bring him not
Will my child deny to look at me?
Why shall not you tell me? How he is?
The angel in the world, God's good friend
My child is dearest to Heaven
Heaven claps when the boy claps
Doth he sit and clap and move?
Or fall on the floor still?

He could not manage his body
 He has not the equilibrium as a toy doth
 On his knees and palms he would walk
 He will walk. I must see him; allow him
 Only he needs see me. He will reach me
 He will jump to be on my hip
 On my shoulders or within my arms
 Tell me, have you this enjoyed?
 Not long that I fostered him
 It troubles my quietness
 My little angelic and playful babe here
 Now jealousy of him to be here
 Prithee tell me, where he is? I will see him
 My good friend. Are ye speechless?
 Are ye a picture drawn? Or indeed
 A woman living whom I see now
 Fondly the babe I left to thy like
 You too kissed the baby from top to toe
 I saw. Your hands were the couch of him
 As if jasmine or rose or asphodel
 He will be to either arms
 or on the breast or on hands
 My love, my tenderness I speak
 But you are quite quite dumb
 Allow me at the least so as to see

Second woman :

Had ye a child? Gave thou him to me?
 What will thou mean? are ye mad?
 Alas! You vex my quietness. why? why
 No harm I did to thy life. Nor ever thought
 Nor I know more dearly of thee
 I have seem thec sometimes on the way
 I think your babe might have died
 In frenzy of his death you prattle
 No child of yours is here. I am sure
 Never ye came and gave me thy boy

Prithee vex no more my being
 Your motion takes me aback! alarms me!!
 Poor you are. I pity thy dead child
 Seek for him in the tomb
 You could see his bones at least
 Even the foxes or wolves could have eaten that
 The buried babes are unearthed by them
 They leave crippled body; bone
 Yours on is not here. Prithee leave me.

First Woman.

Are you mad or am I? oh woman
 My good colleague you were
 Will you speak thus? will thou play
 Prithee the hour is unwholesome to prattle
 I shall see my child to kiss
 Allow me; I could find him here
 Know ye not a mother's love?
 She cannot bear nor nger a child
 Whom she bore in her womb for ten months
 I burst in grown love to see him
 I beg thee friend my good colleague
 I will kneel even if thou give him to me
 My babe alive is here. I will see
 Why shall thou pretend to be thus?
 Alas! The quite young, raw blood. my babe!!
 Here he is. I could see him

Second Woman :

Alas! what mean thou? Again thou say here he is.
 Here he is in your frenzy. I will not allow
 I will complain this to the king to hear it
 I have a babe. How he will be thine?
 If thou more here stand and stunt
 I will appeal to the king to whip thee
 You will be in jail. If thou fear sentence

vanish from here. I will forget it.
 But if you cease not from annoying me
 You will be in prison; remember.
 I tell this once and for all vanish

First Woman :

Aye! Are ye Satan's daughter?
 Or his very manifestation again?
 Thou dishonest knave. doth I lie?
 Or thou. thou fraudulent cur.
 The very wolf you are. Alas
 Now threaten ye me to imprison me?
 No guilt I did; nor ever thought to do.
 But will I go accused and sentenced?
 Think ye that truth and justice will sleep?
 Child is mine, you had no child. I know
 Now you forge. dupe and menace like thief
 Thief will threaten with dagger in his hand
 But thou speak of court and sentence
 Good it is even to me.
 Return to me the child I gave
 Or setting thee off I will step into the house
 I will take away with me my child
 Neither king nor could court hinder
 How world will win me?
 When child has grown of my blood
 What use is to threaten me? Return my babe
 Patiently in love of the baby I beg
 Take it not for cowardly deed
 It doth courage harbinger
 If thou love thy exile do this
 Go directly to the king's court
 Complain that I struck thee even
 I will heed; because to have my child
 When thou denied threatened and offended
 I struck thee and had the baby.

Let me go inside the house
Or I will not leave thee

Second Woman :

Aye will ye strike me? ho ho
The woman, the woman shocks me
Chides me. curses me I am whipped
Are no men here to hear this?
She will none dare. A devil has come
And in utmost madness compels me
To give back my child
Drive this fiend away. Drive her away
A fiend will call an angel the fiend
Thou worst hellish creature cry.

First Woman :

And make men assemble here
They shall hear. Will thry drive me away?
See I shall. call them all

Second Woman :

Men are debased and held by her weak
A woman neglects and dishonours
Hath no men come here to see, hear this?
Are ye all afraid of a ghost?
I dread to look at her Prithee
Come on men in the town; assemble
Inquire into the tyrannous attitude of her
A woman challenges Are no men here?
Will men befit the sarcastic phrase?
Are men indeed weak and mean?
Where manly mien? Are they buried?
Oh oh a frail woman is in fear

First Woman :

Well. Pretend. you could swoon
You could pray to men and weep

But truth will not die if thou cry
 Cry, cry and make men crowd
 They shall all this case hear
 My baby is here I will have him
 Rightful he is to me and not to thee
 If could thou shout and weep
 You can never afford to hide justice
 I know to have again my child
 I will argue.

Second Woman :

Satan will argue and deceive
 Oh men will you all be deceived.
 She assures. She will dupe
 Foul speech and witness Alas!
 All the worlds this shall hear and conclude
 Alas! Have I no resort to have my child?

First Woman :

Alas your child. An unheard tale; dupe
 Will thou this speak and have him?
 A child I had him. In my womb he was
 I gave him over to thee. It is the truth
 But you have a baby. Have I come to see him?
 Alas. Tripple you will me
 Dream ye to drive me away verily
 By the mewling of the child
 By the cry of the child
 I swear He is mine. I bore.
 Give me my child; give me soon.
 Now at least sir you have come (A man enters)
 Sir you could hear and bear to hear
 Wonders will this woman speak; hear from her
 And you have occasion to hear, sir! hear!!

Minister:

Oh women! why both of you contend and shout?
 Frail, stubborn and quite peevish you are

Why dost thou thus speak? shout. What befell?
 Tell the offence that indeed turned up
 In solomon's kingdom a quarrel I hear
 A turmoil in utmost heat and force
 To put out the fire king is in court
 What will thou report? Who will be accused?
 Tell women who have erred well
 I was poring over principles of justice
 Now the very principles of justice face a test
 crucial to hear and see you become
 My attention now is beyond doubt towards you
 If you will tell I will settle
 And set off struggling point

Second Woman :

Hear sir hear I am accused and held guilty
 This woman complains and haunts my quietness
 I was in stately comfort here with my baby
 She came. spoke of her child, described
 And forced me to give the child I have
 To drive her away from here I spoke of court
 But fearless of it, in utter disregard of it
 She Stands and challenges me to summon the court
 The child is not mine. She says; hear sir!
 Drive her away from hither. Lord
 I have to send her out prithee Lord!!

Minister :

Oh woman you stand ill reported.
 Is the child yours? are you mad?
 Why haunt thou this woman's house?
 Have ye become a ghost to frighten her?
 Both have grown fire. I saw
 Desire you king's sentence to jail you
 Go thou from here. She shall be quiet

First Woman :

Sir! Think not that I am so unruly as she pictures
 Not I am Lord. but know me truly
 And clear throat of mine; hear Lord!
 The child given to her is with her
 Not hers. never she delivered a child
 She knows my love for the baby
 Simply to deny my right over this boy
 She stoutly speaks and complains
 The report of hers has no truth
 She lies. She denies. But I am the mother

Second Woman :

Lord! Lord! Trust not her speech
 She is not honest. she is a ghost

Minister:

Both do put me on the horns of dilemma
 Is this child born of two woman?
 Strange. you amuse not but amaze
 Surely women! I have not the wisdom
 And the temperance to hear it is lost
 I will not put out the fire
 I know not wisdom.
 But I will recommend this case
 To the hearing of king solomon
 His lordship could hear and sentence
 You shall in his presence contend
 He has the tact to detect the culprit
 And the power to sentence
 The points of this case make me go mad
 It will make every hearer go mad

Second Woman :

Sir! will not you tax this woman?
 She is the vile, mad and detestable dog.
 Strike her and I shall have my baby

First Woman :

Sir! sir! quite thankless and a fox she is
 Quite knavish now she is.
 But when I knew her and gave my child
 Had her traitorous trait I had known
 I might not have contemplated
 To indulge in this venomous deed.
 The very venom she is. See her sir
 She accused me of having threatened her
 I will see in the court
 And answer his question
 Lead me to his Lordship's presence

Second Woman :

Sir! sir! hear her speech. How cruel she is!!
 Only to vex me and report badly
 She desires. Nothing true is in her
 Lord! Lord! avoid sending us to court
 No guilt is mine. Nor did I
 Only she wantonly accuses
 You heard sir. Drive her out

Minister:

If no guilt you did why fear you?
 This woman will be in Jail
 When he discerns truth in thy case
 Prove the child to be yours
 She will be taxed. You could win
 You shall see her well revenged
 You have the chance to do it
 So you shall unafraid go to court
 And contend in his presence
 As thou called on all in the street.

Act-I. Scene—II.

Place : Solomon's court

Minister :

Your Lordship! this day you will hear
A case till now unheard by you
Sir, I heard it but settled it not
I was overthrown in judging well
I beckoned them to seek thy judgment
They will soon appear here and tell

Solomon :

My good minister. Will I hear a case
Till now unheard by me in this court?
Why judged not thyself the case you speak of
Will it be quite mysterious to my wisdom?
Will not I judge fairly in the case?

Minister :

I entrust it to thy wisdom's face
I will the contents of the case deliver
Yourself shall judge.

(Enter two women with a child borne
by one of them)

Solomon :

Only severe sentence will reveal the case

Minister :

So do I too think.

First Woman :

Your glorious highness! hear my pitiable plight
I had my child. I gave him to this woman
Just to discharge a duty
But when again I asked her to hand over him to me

She repudiates my claim to him: the right over
[him]
My child he is. What else than this I could say?
Your exalted highness save me. Make me have
[my child]

My child he is. What else than this I could say?

My child he is. What else than this I could say
Your exalted highness save me. Make me have
[my child

Second Woman:

Pardon your highness. You heard her case
But she is guilty in this. She lies
She never gave me her child verily
But in love of this lovely child
She claims. I enjoy by having him on shoulders
Maternal quietness is mine. She tumbles
Your highness! offend her!! She imperils me
How will I endure her unjust claim?
He is my child. I bore him in my womb.

But she is guilty in this. She lies

She never gave me her child verily

But in love of this lovely child

She claims. I enjoy by having him on shoulders

Maternal quietness is mine. She tumbles

Your highness! offend her!! She imperils me

How will I endure her unjust claim?

He is my child. I bore him in my womb.

Solomon : (aside)

Minister. Certainly this case is rare! queersome!!

But I am versed in unconquered tact

See how I treat this case.

Easy it is minister. See how it turns up

Surely a mother's love for child

In this world has no parallel known

Only when the child is indeed in danger

The true mother will swoon and shout

There we will know the true mother.

Executioner. With thy sword come

Women! I found not out the true mother

Both lay claim to this one child

In this world a woman at a single birth

Doth deliver one or two children

But two women as thou report here

Never delivered one child

Mothers I find no solution to this

So each mother shall have half the child

Executioner! cut the child into two

In equal parts to these woman give

First Woman :

Highness! highness! half the child give not!!
 Let him be safe with her
 Wherever he will be my son he will be
 Within my womb in full form he grew
 Not he was born to be cut into two
 Lord! give him to this woman Give
 If thou know not the true mother
 Make her have him
 But command not the executioner
 He will cut into two; ask him to get back
 If he is cut he will be dead
 I am afraid. My child will die
 Ask the executioner to get back
 I will bear him to be alive
 In the hands of another woman
 But certainly I will not see him murdered
 Your highness; prithee; withdraw thy doom
 Make thy executioner get back

Second Woman:

Oh your most judicious majesty! Hear! hear
 She hath lost her sense and the good spirit
 She claimed the child. But now she refuses
 If it be her child why the half she denies
 Let my child die. She shal be satisfied.

Solomon :

Is the boy still your child? Will you swear?
 Venomous woman! Folly will not long live
 It's feigned face will vanish
 Your consent to cut the baby show you
 Are you a woman of ordinary nature?
 Thou a tyrannous demoniacal woman
 you yield to slay a sinless child

You will not escape prison and sentence
 You will rigorous imprisonment embrace
 Devil! you are quite black in heart
 Although your body is quite white
 Without mercy the only woman you are
 If you live outside prison
 Mercy and justice will not live
 They will seek their end
 Seize her fast and send to jail
 Alas! how cruel a creature you are
 Live you in this kingdom woman!
 The world will exclaim to hear thy consent
 Even my heart you shook woman
 How will swoon the mother's heart?
 Alas she will know the torture in it
 Oh it is she who bore in her womb
 Not thou. You are detected
 Your guilt is matchless; unpardonable
 Even if the friendly mother forgives
 The kingdom will not tolerate
 Certainly I will not tolerate
 You are doomed to severe jail
 Fetch the baby from her hands
 And give him to the woman in tears

Second Woman :

Liege! Liege! forgive the fault I did
 In love of the child of hers
 I disclaimed her right liege
 No child I have. No child is born
 Bestow! on me the mercy. your highness
 I am sinful. Lord! I prostrate.
 Forgive Lord.

First Woman :

Your glorious highness She knew not thy wisdom
 Thy mercy and exactness in judgment

So she hath thus treaded Lord
 But henceforth she will not wag tail
 Ignoring king's incising wisdom she thus did
 Yet if thou kindly forgive her fault
 Again an aught she will not others offend

Solomon :

Now thou recommend to forgive her fault
 But did not she trouble thy peace
 As she is a woman I have to forgive
 But bear this stoutly in mind
 If ever a mischief done by thee I hear
 You will be declared demon and doomed
 To live ever thenceforth in exile
 So I will on next occasion treat
 Now you have the favour of friend
 Mercy next time you could not expect
 This much now I will say Bear this ever
 Take leave of this court.

Minister :

Liege! Excellently you have the case settled
 Happy I am. Only your wisdom could achieve this
 The world will praise this lord

Solomon :

May the great God wish it so!



3 SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN COLLEGE

One Act Play

Act-I. Scene—I.

Enter: Family member

Janakinath Bose :

Oh Boy! Young Bose! Why this trouble?
Whilst you are very young.
Let you grow old to think this
Subhas! your choice of vision is rare!
Now you suffer from severe fever
Mother knows to weep! Brothers pant
Sick of your absence she seeks
Alas! Alas! How often you do it
We keep vigil and watch on you
Yet you escape everyone's watch
How! How!

Prababati :

From fever he suffers. Hear it lord!
Let him first recover from this fever
We shall then the wisest step take

Physician :

To fear there is nothing. I divine no ill
From this fever he will be free
I attended in all earnestness
Rest is in the hands of God
Seeking after Good and God he stepped out
On his health could not be any clout
Fear not. I assure with all faith in Him!

Prababati :

Like the God you talk! Oh Doctor!!
My son must recover the earlier
Praying to Him I spent these days

He alone brought back my beloved Bose!
 This handsome young child I bore
 His fever now begins to afflict me.
 Kali's place is this. I know
 That mother will look after.

Janakinath Bose :

The anger that forced me to smite
 On seeing him weak at once disappeared

Physician :

Paternal love will pant and sob
 To nobody this could be new.
 I have a son. I also have this felt
 Fear not Janakinath! All will be well!!
 Hear this. It augurs well.
 (A temple bell knolls)

All :

Well! Well!!

(All Exult)

Act-I. Scene—II.

Place: College premises

Enter Students

First youth :

Subhas! Whites won't respect Indian
 We are called the coloured people
 They take pride in their law and custom
 They call us worshippers of Linga.

Subhas Chandra Bose:

Are they not ignorant of us?
 Of our worship and the principles?
 Although a sadhu I sought I saw not
 Have we not great swami Vivekananda?

His spiritual luminary Sage Ramakrishna
 How many Bengalis are now awake?
 Words of Vivekananda work like tonic
 A new spirit is injected into us
 What he said concerning New India?
 "Through Bazaars, workshops and industries"
 He wishes the emergence of new India
 Moribund India he prefers not.

Second youth :

Bose! Bose!! Hear from him the atrocity
 The ill treatment he met with on the way

Third youth :

I had a ticket for II class
 Proudly I was occupying a seat
 White couples entered. I moved not
 But they ordered me to get out
 I was rather stunned at this! Bose!!
 When I was still staring at them
 Railway Guard stepped in to support them
 An Indian he is. But what did he?
 He pushed me out of that compartment
 We, Indians co-operate with them
 That is why thus they treat us
 See the menial servants! How they salaam!!
 Ha! Ha! It provokes me to wrath indeed to see

Bose :

Even to hear it provokes me friend
 Had I been on that spot!
 I dare think not! Terrible! terrible!!
 Everywhere they treat Indians likewise
 How could we manage to avert them?
 Hum! Hum!! Friends we shall counsel

And find out a way with regard to this
We must do something in this regard

First youth :

Bose! Today a revolutionary leader speaks
We shall hear from him the way
Many youngsters like us are joining hands
We shall also join to fight them

Bose :

All Right. We shall hear his speech first
Then we shall take to the surest feat
Follow! follow to the ground.

(Curtain drawn)

Platform: Revolutionary orator

Revolutionary :

Boys, the legitimate sons of Bharatham!
Thought you over the plight of the nation?
Britain holds your mother land in chain
We are all captives. No liberty we enjoy
In fear of the whites the meeting we hold
To escape their notice we are thinking.
Cowardliness have caught hold of us.
Free Indians we must become. Fearless
We must become. Then is our happiness.
What Swami Vivekananda told? Friends.
That saint's words of hope I must remind.
Need of India is the courage of the individual
Energy of individual must be for India.
Our Mother Country is now a slave land
Without them we must rule the land
Amongst us there need be the unity.
You are all students. Learn well the laws.
With laws and if need be without laws
We must seek to overthrow the whites.

Victory over the whites must be our goal
Towards that shore, think everyone to sail
Hail Mother India Hail the red blooded youngster

Students Clap :

Wonderful. Impressed a lot to hear, to act upon
Such leaders meeting we attend and hear.
A victorious way must be chalked out
That alone we are thinking of often

Bose :

Indias's Pride ever will glitter.
Whites could not that pride shatter
A movement towards liberty is the need
Massive, sufficiently organised and if led truly
A movement will fetch the freedom
Leaders like them we are seeking after.
We are hearing of Tilak of Maharashtra
He is the lokamanya of this land
He went first to prison bars.
Britain fears that fearless leader.
Like the lion his magazine roars.
Thereat the whites like petty animals fear
A leader like him for every province we need
India is a wide country. Union is strength
For the fight it is the prerequisite.

First youth :

Well done, well done. Bose.
Urgency, terrorism, unpremeditated acts
Never could relate us to the freedom
We shall first think to get at victorious way
This is the way to be gay and victorious.

All :

We all acknowledge, we all nod

[Scene ends]

Act-I. Scene—III.
Group Discussion
Place: A Park

First youth:

Bose, these are every day events.
It is the law of this day that we must suffer
Although it be our very nation
Our kings surrendered unto them
Warlike they were! They won!! Bose
What now the youngsters could do?
The red blood of this age agitates.
But we fall prey to their laws.

Bose:

Like a learner of truth you speak
Unjust rules never went ahead
You seem to become disheartened
Friend! red blooded and wise!!
Way is wide; we shall tread.
This aloofness from battle is of no avail

First youth:

All right. May Bose lead us all
Why shall not we towards justice step?
We wish the respect wont to us
When it is in prison we shall fight
Only a fight will release that right.

Bose:

Well said; we well said, friend
We are now students. Whites are teachers
But we see no difference in treatment—
When we witness it we shall see it

Seond youth:

To learn we entered into this institution
Think never of a war with a staff

They impart wisdom. Bose, remember
 Acharya worship is enjoined on us
 Let them be white or coloured.

Bose:

Correct stand you take
 Outside the college we shall do
 Other white's atrocities we shall fight.

Third youth:

This will be the fight for justice
 This, I too favour. I will join

Bose:

Source of strength now we find
 We shall not the ruling whites mind
 Our goal is the liberty to self assertion
 Only when there is to this the opposition
 We will be in war like position
 Although it will be the juxtaposition
 Build New India for you to live in
 For this we must the arrogant whites win
 Follow now me to Build India new
 We shall drive whites out of India
 Strength only they regard ever
 Occasions give us ample proofs
 Plenty of nation is a past tale
 Today we eat the food stale
 Our wits are morose. We are loose
 Seek Unity to fight these whites

Second youth:

Bose: Bose, Brilliant a song we heard
 Facts of our case you presented:
 Why shall we submit ourselves to the whites
 Where there is no deference to us.
 We must seek to drive them out.

They won't leave without a clout.
 We all read the world war events
 Valiant Indians drive away Germans.

Second youth :

Retreat of enemies on all points!
 White stare at us! For our skills and strength
 And loyalty they admire us Thank us.
 Even come forward to give prizes
 Not medals the tites we prefer
 Oh Britishers! cease to be ruler
 This reward give us: We will admire.

Bose :

Whites are not wonderful fools
 As thou wish and pray to them
 To tighten their hold only they seek
 They won't at any event hold us weak
 Yet Indians yield to their word
 So we are thus here by them honoured

First youth :

Yes, yes, we are not awake
 We must arise first Bose. We must arise.
 What Swami vivekananda told?
 Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.
 Destination is at a safe distance
 Towards That we must step
 We shall reach and win it
 Come, come; friends.

(Exit)

Act-I. Scene—IV.
Place: College premises
Near Staff Room

Boys in a group cross the room talking among themselves
Enters E. F. Oaten

E. F. Oaten :

Dare ye do this boys? Disrespectful
Here I rest, along it you pass
And crack unwanton jokes
Your wits I know, foolish folk;
Fit Indians, The terms you earned
Richly you deserve. Boys. Quite suited to that.

First Student :

Sir, Disrespect to nation is tyrannous.
In India you are serving
You are teaching us, the Indians
This slander is vexatious

E. F. Oaten :

Boys too much you speak.
Think not that I am destined to tolerate
Think not that I will overrate you.

Second student :

Sir, we ask not to overrate us
But make it clear that you don't underrate
Nation is the all in all of a citizen
Attack on its fame is unbearable
Characteristics of us you condemn
Some ignorant foreigners termed
Some terms in respect of our customs
But you are here you teach us
You need not talk like this Sir.
India's fortune you are earning.

E. F. Oaten :

You fools, You deserve thrashing
I have hands. Of no use is the mouth
(He smites the student)

First student :

Sir, Sir you transgressed all bounds
You have more than ever before offended us
See how we take steps, Sir, See it
See it; see it. We will not let you go scot free
See the results of your retrograde step

E. F. Oaten :

I will be here. I shall see your steps
In my presence how ye talked?
Did ye like student's speak? Tell
Go, go; these threats won't hurt me.
The courage and wisdom of whites
You Indians, know not an aught.

Second student :

Without an offer of apologies from you
Sir, take it from me. I won't return to College
Not I alone; a host of friends.
Include the college students upon the whole
Unless you stand repentant this won't end
See your wisdom there. Sir, see it

E. F. Oaten :

Think you that I will ask your forgiveness
You fancy well boy. You dream well

Students :

Dream of this student will become true
You will be the partaker in it.
Sir, Fail not to behold that scene

E. F. Oaten :

"Fail not to behold that scene"
 Ha A phrase quite precious to hear
 Play thou all that drama first, boys.
 I shall not then fail to do that

First student :

We won't talk any more in this regard
 See it played fairly to your satisfaction
 This will satisfactorily do Sir,
 See it; See it.

E. F. Oaten :

To see I am waiting; play. Play.

(Exit)

Act-I. Scene—V.

Assembly of students

Place: Outside the college campus

Bose :

We are grown ups; we deserve respect
 Extraneous is his step. Surely, friends.
 A lecturer ought not to manhandle students

First student:

Bose, more than this all he said and did
 Slur over the face of nation he cast
 That I bore not Bose. That only I bore not
 How easily he is his land's like
 His predecessor's remarks he reminded
 "Fit Indians to befit that epithets"
 He said Bose. He said; It provoked us
 When reply sharply we unmuzzled
 He stepped to manhandle us
 Since he is a lecturer he is left
 Other whites could never think of escape.

Bose:

We are here to resolve in this regard
Principal's attention to this needs must be drawn
Extra steps he took to deal with you
Not we are children to be smitten
When we were five or ten years old
Teachers smote for lapses, if any
Now If condemned it will do
He seems to have transgressed that
Upbraided National customs and conduct
In India he is serving and earning
A reminder attempt you have all made
In anger he smote you. All right
I shall represent this case.

First student:

Bose convincing result we wish
It must relieve us of the mental agony
If the principal falls in line with him?

Bose:

Before meeting the principal this gossip is not
(needed)
Suppose he convincingly deals with it

Second student:

Only the contrary I imagined
The results fair may also ensue
All right. Bose, represent this case
Plead on our behalf. We entrust this to you

First student:

I am offended. I struggle to be quiet.

Bose:

Friend, I feel your pulse well
But it befell. He is a teaching staff
Student level steps we could take
That what is to be done I will do

Second student:

All right Bose. I am satisfied.
Bring your attempt to something positive
That only I could now say

(Exit)

Act-I. Scene—VI.

Staff room

Staff members sitting

Staff:

Why smote you at once Oaten?
This leads to new convulsion
Boys are discussing and resolving
Already they abhor whites
Accuse whites of having ill treated them
Whilst we are thus in hatred held
Why smote thou? They will revolt.

E. F. Oaten:

Will you too, Sir, betray? Fellow staff
A native of Britain says this.
Even publicly you would condemn
My faults you magnify Sir,
Their trespasses you think not
Strange this is, yet deserves mention

Staff:

Students magnify and screen that.
Friendly chiding Friend
But you indulge in chiding me

E. F. Oaten:

A way out of this I will soon find!
What they could do? I will fight.
To principal they will submit this issue
The principal will call for an explanation
The truth, in truth, I will describe.

I was angered. Their speech provoked
 No way to escape I had then. I struck
 "In India serving and eating Indian bread"
 Did not they this speak? Fellow staff
 Did not I hear this slander?
 A teacher they disrespected
 For this they deserve that.

Fellow staff :

Oaten, think to settle it amicably.
 You seem to intensify struggle
 Whether wrong or right is your step
 With boys we must be smooth
 A teaching staff deserves respect
 Why in their fun and play you interferred?

E. F. Oaten :

Their speech and laughter provoked me
 I had no other go save that interference
 And the rupture that ensued

Staff :

Well. Well; seek to settle it satisfactorily
 This only could be told in manner friendly
 Whether you this welcome or not
 You must have abstained from assaulting.

E. F. Oaten :

I have to face the issue of my action
 You tell that which seems fair to your discretion
 Well friend. Well colleague. well

(Exit)

Act-I. Scene—VII.

Principal's room Principal sitting

Bose enters

Bose :

Salutation to you Sir. We beg to submit, Sir.

Principal:

What you submit? Give it over to me
What reads this paper?

Bose:

Students are likely to agitate
Following an untoward act of Mr. E. F. Oaten
A student is assaulted; smitten
In presence of his class mates
Not even that happened in a class room
Just they were crossing his private room
Something, they say, they were talking
He is said to have interrupted thereat
Unnecessarily attacked them there
National grandeur was incised
He feels it deeply. He represented it to me
Students prefer a petition to your Honour
In accordance with it, this I submit; Sir.

Principal:

A teacher's step it is. An act untoward!
All right! Bose! I also acknowledge
But ye make a fuss about it. Is it Not?
They could forget that act easily
He is the teacher. Respect him
How your ancient schools functioned?

Bose:

Sir, Hermitage was the school of the past
There was for wisdom the repast.
All servants' duties students did
The truth they learnt; they returned.
Teacher reminded of endurance
Himself bore all evils in life
He set the precedence to students.
National, maternal honour was esteemed
To that honour all were to be sacrificed
That school is not now in existence

Principal:

You seem to speak proudly of your lore
Now what you prefer to do?
That tell me briefly. I shall do.

Bose:

A compromise will be preferred.
A regret of hot step is chosen
Urge him to avail of this chance
Students will oblige with it.

Principal:

A teaching staff to offer apologies
I am not able to swallow and digest
Bose, Reconsider your request.

Bose:

To seek after justice in this case I was sent
I think not to surrender their self-respect
Unconvincing reply I could not entertain
Uncompromising will become the students
You manage the college affairs
To your attention this event we brought
If you weigh not aright, I have no say

Principal:

Bose! You prefer a strike soon
Destruction of normalcy you choose

Bose:

Sir. It is not my right to give it up
Actually offended party is my fellow student
On his behalf argue many students
There is also justice in their pleadings
Simply because he is the teaching staff
This harshness shall not go without condemnation

Principal:

Attendant, Tell Oaten, I sent word
I shall invite his explanation
Bose. I shall consult him. Take Leave of me
I shall tell you the progress of talks with him

Bose:

Thank you, Sir. This you ought to do
(Bose Exit)

Principal:

Alarming they urge this Alas!
How will this professor yield to this?
His own stand he will emphasize.
A strike may ensue. All I shall see
(enters Oaten)

E. F. Oaten :

Good morning Sir. I am called upon

Principal:

Are you aware of the cause in the least?
I am pressed to do this, Oaten.
I was also a staff like you
I think not to compel you.
Students insist on your compromise terms

E. F. Oaten:

Sir, Extraneously they behaved on that occasion
That was why that rashness took hold of me
Ask thou me to offer terms of compromise
Are you willing to see that?
Sir! Most Honoured Sir, Tell sir

Principal:

All right. Oaten. Take leave of me
I shall my ruling in this issue declare
Go thou. I will settle it in my capacity

Bose. Bose. Send for Bose.

(Oaten Exit)

(Bose enters)

Bose I consulted. Briefed him of your petition.
 Your classmates wrongness stoutly he chid
 They discourteously spoke and treated him
 He is right well enraged. Bose
 In fit anger he smote the student
 He sees no reason to submit to your terms
 I also see justice in his arguments
 Bose. Tell your friends these facts
 They also in anger seek to agitate
 Only normalcy is likely to ruin
 Why shall ye cause that Bose?
 Normalcy shall cost your endurance.
 Press them all to give up that cause
 They are free to attend classes
 Arrange for this Bose. I urge you towards that

Bose:

Sir, speechless I am made Sir,
 Words agitate before we agitate
 To seek befitting reply you sent word
 Now you reply on the contrary
 Fair terms from him we prayed for
 But one with the other have colluded
 In the assembly of students this I will brief
 I have no exclusive hold over them
 That is the truth Sir. This I said.

Principal:

I did all that I could do Bose
 Why ye misunderstand me boy?
 I am for the good of all
 But you regard it not Bose
 This is the case and cause of any strike
 Bose tread your way, do your work
 I will manage any untoward incident here.

Bose:

Sir, this is threat pure and simple.
We shall not any further freely discuss
We shall the way choose and win
Thank you Sir for this.

(Bose Exit)

Principal:

Uncompromising boys are here. A great strife!
The professor is equally militant.
Name of the institution will be at stake
If the students go on at least a token strike
A new crisis is now before me.
Settlement of it is now out of hand
To Jesus I must pray. This I will do.
Scence ends.

Act-I. Scene—VIII.

Assembly of students
Near the college premises

All:

Tell us Bose, tell what actually befell?

Bose:

The principal eludes like the eel
Formal enquiry he held Friends
Our hopes are against his resolve
Oaten won't come to regret his high handedness
We have to find out the way
In this what ye all have to say.

First student:

Bose there is no middle way
General strike is the only way
It will trumpet what we say
It will tom tom our determined way

Bose:

Is everyone supporting this?

Second student:

Bose there is the consensus of opinion on this.
Whites won't regret. Bose you must know.

Bose:

Well. It is resolved. Tomorrow is the strike
Tell all boys this resolve. We shall protest
Hence forth they must cease to ill treat
Self respect we all prefer
Without an escape he will come to terms
This we shall through strike prove
One mindedness is of wonderful use.
Friends. It pleases me to see this
Others will ask them in respect of this
To avoid public queries. Worries
They will seek after compromise

All:

Bose prepare slogan to be raised

Bose:

You are all here. You all know it
You are all well forced to launch strike
"Come to compromise terms
Otherwise you won't here have terms
Preserve the prestige, Oh professor
Then only the students will rever."

First student:

Very good. Very good.
Everyone in succession must one line voice
In succession we shall shout.

Bose:

Tomorrow is the strike. Today depart.

All:

Yes, tomorrow the strike; tomorrow the strike.

(Exeunt severally)

Act-I. Scene - IX.

Principal's room

Oaten and principal talking

Principal:

Oaten. See the results of your action
 A general strike of students is on
 They are uniformly militant
 Uncompromisingly active against us
 I see no reason why this is allowed.
 I feel to persuade you now
 Once I respected your feelings
 But the name of the institution is at stake
 Everyone begins to take stock of the situation
 Even I will be inquired into soon
 I am afraid that I have to persuade you
 Convince the students first
 It will alone soothe the seething broil
 Oaten. I have precisely described
 Before all cast slur over the institution
 Take steps to defend its honour
 I appeal to your unmistakable wisdom.

E. F. Oaten:

Sir, your position is delicate
 Delicately I am also placed.
 Once you favoured the stand I took
 Now you are forced to forsake
 Simply because I am a white
 They prefer this vexatious fight.

Could and would they proceed thus
 Against such a treatment by their natives?
 A feeling of rancour pervades them
 Usually I am easy prey to anger
 In its firm grip I smote them
 To cast me down on earth
 They resort to this strike

Principal:

Feelingly you speak Mr. Oaten
 I favour your stand But you also know
 Without the next best alternative
 I am driven to compel you
 Please Mr. Oaten. Help defending
 The honour of this college
 That is already on throes.

E. F. Oaten:

I shall do, sir; I shall do.

Last Scene

Students and Oaten

Place: Within College premises

E. F. Oaten:

Students, I regret for that untoward act
 The moment on which I was rash
 Fills me with shame and disgrace
 With no face I stand here
 I tender apologies befitting my act
 Students, I ask you all to call off the strike
 Principal's interest in the institution's honour
 Oh students, you must all honour
 Call off the strike and attend classes
 I have yielded to your conditions.
 Am not I? Call off the strike.

First student:

Only when the nation and its clan
 Earned dishonour from you
 We also moved bitterly. Forgiveness
 Is for the foul phrases in regard to nation
 A teacher may smite the student
 That could be endured. But not slur over nation
 Readily the strike is called off
 Only at my insistence this is done
 Bose will formally announce the call off
 We will attend classes. Assuredly of this take leave

E. F. Oaten:

All right students. I will say this to Principal
 (Exit)

Bose:

The championed cause gained victory.
 Only our studies will ruin
 If we continue the strike.
 Strike is called off Attend classes
 From tomorrow onwards. Fare you well.
 Wishing that Union fare you well.
 (Exeunt severally)





Other

Legend of Prince Butter Hair

... .. K. Krishna and Ram

... .. Historical Play

... .. of William Shakespeare

... .. Parichandra

... .. Ramayana (Five parts)

... .. Silapathikaram (two parts)

... .. Mahatma Gandhi (Boyhood)

... .. Mahatma Gandhi (Fourteen parts)

... .. Kannappa Nayanar (Tamil)

... .. Sakuntala and Dhusyantha

... .. Swami Vivekananda (Boyhood)

... .. Lord Krishna at Gokul

Poems Emotional and Philosophical



POET INDIA PUBLICATIONS

20, Angudi Road, Pudukkottai-622001

Tamil Nadu, India.

Co-operative Press Ltd., Pudukkottai.

